

PALYNOSTRATIGRAPHYA. 1640-50m (cutts) : upper N. asperus Zone

Assignment to the upper Nothofagidites asperus Zone is indicated by the absence of younger or older indicators. Spores and pollen are not common, and are dominated by N. emarcidus.

The dinoflagellates include common Phthanoperidinium without common Operculodinium spp. or Vozzhennikovia extensa. The assemblage is thus consistent with the correlatives of the upper N. asperus Spore-Pollen Zone of the Gippsland Basin.

Nearshore marine environments are indicated by the presence of frequent dinoflagellates (25% of palynomorphs) and their moderate diversity.

Yellow spore colours indicate immaturity for hydrocarbon generation.

B. 1730 (cutts)-1851m (cutts) : middle N. asperus Zone

Assignment to the middle Nothofagidites asperus Zone is indicated at the top by the youngest occurrence of Triorites magnificus, supported by youngest Proteacidites incurvatus (1730-40m, cutts), Lileacidites lanceolatus, Proteacidites kopiensis, P. rugulatus, and Triporopollenites ambiguus (1826m, swc). At the base, assignment is indicated by the oldest T. magnificus supported by oldest Riccia boxatus (1842-51m, cutts) and Proteacidites rectomarginus (1826m, swc).

Age diagnostic dinoflagellates include Areosphaeridium arcuatum and Deflandrea phosphoritica, indicating a broad lower to middle